

Voyage home from Hobart Town

March 6th 1844.

Wednesday 6th March / The Captain was
 up all night, the weather
 being variable & the wind likely at any
 moment to change - It was during the whole
 of this day dead on end, but there was
 very little of it - We were talking as it
 is not unusual to do in a calm, of the
 chances & of the port sail we should
 see since we left Port Phillip ^{now nearly 2 months} being
 of this sort - The gentlemen had as soon
 left the table than a sail was in sight
 soon on our starboard quarter & going in
 the same direction as ourselves - She was
 pronounced after much recognition to
 be a large merchantman - It was supposed
 from our movements that she might have
 inquiries about her, for she showed her
 colours when there was not sufficient
 light to make them out -

I told Dr. Browning in the evening that I
 had a treat for him - It was an account
 by Lord Thorsby of the Elopement of
 Calderon which I had cut out of a newspaper
 I received from him & his Summary of the
 Principles & History of Popery which I
 forthwith began to read -

The ship was not visible the next morning -
 the wind continued fall with light squalls & rain -
 one of these about noon brought it however

There were some signs of stormy weather -
 The sun set in rising clouds, casting
 a fluctuating haze of red in a narrow &
 broken stream across the sheet of purple
 waters, now rippled by a ^{very} light breeze
 which just enabled us to hold our course -
 The ^{sun} went down like a globe of fire which
 we could look at without pain & brought
 out distinctly some purple hills far so
 they appeared behind it - The Captain
 who admitted that some faint well defined
 outlines backward of this was the distant
 coast of Africa asserted ^{sunbeams} these to be clouds -
 if otherwise, his observations were all
 wrong, it was therefore with satisfaction
 we heard the 2^d mate at the time exclaiming
 report that the mountains were rising
 up into the sky, The darkness which
 soon came ^{on} was illuminated by frequent
 & rather vivid flashes of sub lightning
 which came from all quarters of the horizon
 the moon had not risen, but Jupiter
 only a little above the horizon looked
 so large & so brilliant in the darkness &
 was so regularly & rapidly hid & described
 by the passage of dark clouds that we
 might have fancied it a new & splendid

Sunday 10th March.

Revolving light on Cape Agallas. -

I finished this evening my old book of voyages, containing Sir John Warburton's, Tasmans', Woods' & Martens', before attempting to take up Penn afterwards with the 2. Testaments, I fell into a slumber produced by the closeness of the evening & was obliged to give it up. -

Nothing particular followed the stormy indications - a few ^{light} showers fell during the night & the next morning we were making a little progress with an unfavourable breeze from the S.W. It was Sunday morning the 10th. We had church in the luddy - Sir John read the Communion service instead of the Litany as he usually does on alternate Sundays - The D^r read an excellent sermon of the late Mr. Andrew Thompson of Edinburgh - "Behold, now is the accepted time" &c. -

We all went on deck after the service to look at the ship (the same vessel it is supposed which we saw before) which was in sight on our starboard bow, nearer shore - In the evening Mr. Hudson Weston visited me to walk. I told him of my plan to have brought out a chessman &

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his wife for the education of girls & of
ing scheme of introducing them into society
at Govt. House, which he seemed highly
to approve of. - he spoke of Miss Cowie
& Miss Menly (now Mrs. Stone) who was at
one time governess in his family - he said
she was extremely accomplished, but that
her manners were not very good & had the
appearance of a little flighty rep. tho'
it was only the effect of a nervous & exci-
table temperament. -

Dr. Brewster's evening discourse was
a composition of his own upon the
moral & intellectual beings whom we
have scriptural authority for believing
exist in the Universe besides the human
race, viz. other kinds upon Angels &
Devils, but principally the former.
I finished to day Brit's Summary of
the Principles & Precepts of Popery -
at 6 o'clock on Monday morning the
11th we spoke our Companion ship which
was a fine merchantman of 800 tons, called
the — no one was sure about the
name but it was a proper name of 4 or 5
syllables ended in a - She was from Bengal
& word which gave rise to much after
discussion whether it was not Bombay that
it was said, whilst some one thought they

heard "Calcutta" - In reply to the questions
on their side, Capt. Ferguson said we
were from Port Phillip which not being
intelligible to them, he added New South Wales.
English news had arrived in India up to the
6th Dec^r. The stranger Captain said he
was not going into the Cape & desired we
would report him which Capt. Ferguson
plied to by saying we were not going there
either & the stranger was requested to report
as in his way home - None but the gentle
men witnessed this event, but on board
of the stranger was seen the faces of
coloured women looking out from the port
holes, & some thought some fairer heads
in disguise behind - a few gentlemen
including a military man in a red cloak
was on the deck. - I rejoiced much that
the ship was not going into the Cape
& that that there was nothing to be apprehended
from the report to the Col. Secretary
there of our exact movements toward the
same off-shore ships.

At 9 o'clock this forenoon, we passed
Cape Agallas, & having a most favourable
sawbreeze ^{a driving breeze} which carried us along at
the rate of 9 knots an hour, we, about

little reading & thus finished the 4 numbers
of the P.D.H. Monthly Magazine &
Ligon Sampson's Voyages & Nicholson's
lectures on Hagiokish - I had some evening
walks with Mr. Weston on Saturday
17th, told him of the haggled Art Union
Society which led to his making some
observations on the desideratum of a
public library - He questioned me if
any thing of the kind had been organiz-
ed & I replied in the negative except
the special exhibit library of the Toron-
to Museum which I had to explain
in which he seemed to take much
interest - he said he had been promised
an engraving of the Museum - on returning
to the cabin, Elleanor told me it was
the anniversary of the foundation of
Ancient Museum, which led me at
once to fetch the engraving & present
2 or 3 to Mr. Weston. ^{I took out also the pamphlet No. 2.} The other gentlemen
seemed to listen to the perpetual holiday
then proposed, with interest, & I gave each
of them an engraving to remind them that
they also were invited to become bene-
factors to the library.

Sunday 18th we had 2 services on the Easter
Day, at each Dr. Bevaning read discourses of

his own composition which had considerable merit - The 8 o'clock evening service was in addition to these, but without any other reading than the scriptures. I finished Richardson's lectures on the psalms which may be called rather a pretty book of its class, but a little superficial - also Clarkson Climate a favorable but moderate carried as steadily on towards St. Helena, till Tuesday the 19th, when we were nearly becalmed during the day & more so at night - We crossed the Tropic of Cancer in the forenoon - tho' without wind, we are not yet suffering from the heat, nor are the flies which disappeared in a great measure during the cool weather round the Cape, come on again in force - a new generation of them, mostly very minute, but in different stages of increase seem to be taking the place of their parents - It appears to be rather unusual ^{on} in consistency to be becalmed in this part of the ocean, it being a common capriciousness to roll from the Cape to St. Helena, as indicative of the ships' motion in a rolling sea - The Captain observed that we had the sun near the Equator, had crossed the Tropic & had a new moon & considering all these, he expected confusion of some sort. We watched on deck the setting